

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-18 without prejudice or surrender of subject matter.

19. (New) A method of splicing a stream of a commercial time slot into a network time slot of an incoming network stream, said commercial time slot and network time slot each having an in-point and an out-point and a duration, the method comprising:

 multiplexing the commercial stream into the network stream such that the commercial slot in-point is aligned with the network slot out-point;

 during the commercial stream, adjusting the vbv_delays of said stream such that the duration of the commercial stream has a maximum duration that is longer than the duration of the network time slot, any difference in durations being equal to a network feed extra;

 at the network stream in-point, multiplexing any remaining portion of the commercial stream at a higher stream rate, and storing any network feed extra; and

 at the commercial stream out-point, multiplexing any stored network feed extra into the network stream while adjusting the vbv_delays of the stored network feed extra until the vbv_delays in the network feed extra match that in the incoming network feed.

20. (New) A method of splicing as recited in claim 19, wherein the duration of the commercial time slot is 30.5 seconds.

21. (New) The method of claim 20,

 wherein the duration of the network time slot is based on a Decode Time Stamp and a network time slot duration time tolerance; and

 wherein any stored feed extra is at least as large as the difference between the 30.5 seconds and the network time slot duration.

22. (New) A method of splicing a stream of a commercial time slot into a network time slot of

an incoming network stream, said commercial time slot and network time slot each having an in-point and an out-point and a duration, the method comprising:

 multiplexing the commercial stream into the network stream such that the commercial slot in-point is aligned with the network slot out-point;

 while multiplexing the commercial stream into the network stream, computing an expected completion time of the network time slot by monitoring the network feed, and adjusting the vbv_delays of the commercial stream such that the duration of the commercial stream has a minimum duration that is shorter than the duration of the network time slot;

 between a prescribed point prior to the out-point of the commercial time slot and the out-point of the commercial time slot, multiplexing the remaining portion of the commercial stream at a slower stream rate by adjusting the vbv_delays to meet the expected completion time; and

 at the network in-point, multiplexing the incoming network feed into the network stream.

23. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the minimum duration is 29.5 seconds.

24. (New) The method of claim 23,

 wherein the network time slot duration is based on a Decode Time Stamp and a network time slot duration time tolerance and the prescribed point is 29 seconds, the remaining portion of the commercial time slot including 15 pictures; and

 wherein the slower stream rate for the remaining portion of the commercial stream is based on taking the difference between the duration of the network time slot and 29.5 seconds.

25. (New) A method of splicing as recited in claim 22, wherein computing the expected completion time includes:

 computing a difference between the number of pictures in the network slot and the number of pictures that have passed in the network stream since the commercial in-point; and
 multiplying the difference by the picture rate.

26. (New) A method of splicing a stream of commercial time slot into a network time slot of an

incoming network stream, said commercial time slot and network time slot each having an in-point and an out-point and a duration, the method comprising:

- storing the incoming network stream for a prescribed time;

- computing from the stored network stream an expected duration of the network time slot;

- multiplexing the commercial stream into the network stream such that the commercial slot in-point is aligned with the network slot out-point;

- while multiplexing the commercial stream into the network stream,

- adjusting the vbv_delays of the commercial stream such that the duration of the commercial stream is the same as the expected duration of the network time slot;

- obtaining the network in-point from the stored incoming network stream;

- determining any remaining portion of the commercial stream;

- adjusting the vbv_delays of a remaining portion of the commercial stream such that the commercial stream out-point occurs at the same time as the network in-point; and

- multiplexing an incoming network feed into the network stream.